Shortage of essential medicines

741. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to World Health Organisation there is an alarming shortage of essential medicines in the public sector;

(b) if so, whether the essential medicines are not available at a reasonable price to the needy;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to have a price control on essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per the information available in this Department, there is no recent report from World Health Organisation regarding shortage of essential medicines in the public sector as specified in National List of Essential Medicines 2003.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Drug Policy as amended from time to time envisages making available quality medicines at reasonable prices to the masses. Besides this Department has recently launched Generic Drug Campaign by opening Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores with the cooperation of State Governments & Pharma CPSUs. The generic medicines available in these stores are cheaper as compared to the branded drugs available in the market.

A draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 was prepared by this Department in. consultation with various stakeholders and submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. One of the recommendations made in the draft Policy is to bring essential medicines under price control subject to certain conditions and exceptions. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but did not make recommendations to the Cabinet.

Commissioning of new project Namrup-IV

742. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the plan for commissioning a new project as Namrup-IV under the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;